

In re: Nojima et al.
Serial No.: 10/705,365
Filed: November 10, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 8-11 and 13-18 are pending in this application. The claims are objected to for informalities and stand rejected as being indefinite. Applicants request entry of the amendments provided above and request further consideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the comments below.

Support for Claim Amendments

The amendments presented above have been made to recite particular features of the inventions so as to expedite the prosecution of the present application to allowance in accordance with the USPTO Patent Business Goals (65 Fed. Reg. 54603, September 8, 2000). These amendments do not represent an acquiescence or agreement with any of the outstanding rejections.

Claims 8-11 and 13-18 are amended herein to address informalities and to more particularly point out what Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. The rejections of the pending claims are discussed hereinbelow in the order in which they appear in the Action.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner objects to claims 11 and 18 for various informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 18 herein as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that these amendments address the objections of the Examiner in full, to which Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant objections. However, should the Examiner has any further issues in regard to this matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide further suggestions in order to address and resolve this matter.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112 (Second Paragraph):

Claims 8-11 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out what Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 8, 9, 11 and 18 herein in order to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recitations in the instant claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the instant claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph and respectfully request that the rejections on this basis be withdrawn.


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CONCLUSIONS

Applicants believe that the points and concerns raised by the Examiner in the Action have been addressed in full, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned Attorney at (919) 854-1400 to expedite the prosecution of this application to allowance.

No fee is believed due with this paper. Applicants believe this amount to be correct. However, should any extension of time be required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any refund to Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,



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UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via the central facsimile number 571-273-8300 on October 13, 2006 and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Tracy Wallace